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Behind the Anti-Stalin Move

Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shows some optimism in his appraisal of the reasons for the Kremlin's anti-Stalin campaign. Yet he rightly cautions that the Soviet leaders have not proved good intentions.

As Mr. Dulles tells the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, Khrushchev and his partners are breaking away from Stalinism because of domestic pressures as well as a desire to acquire international respectability.

Russia's technology has created increasingly large numbers of educated people—teachers, scientists, engineers, managers, supervisors and others. These are indispensable to the state but are no longer willing to live under severe repression. They are too informed, at least in some matters, to accept blatantly false dogma and propaganda. As a result the Kremlin must make a show of improving living standards and granting a fuller measure of individual freedom.

The Soviet hierarchy, having begun this process, may find it hard to reverse. Tyranny thrives on mass ignorance. Yet Communist leaders must encourage education to achieve scientific and military parity with the United States and other Western nations.

However, Mr. Dulles suspects that Russia's collective leadership is only doing what is necessary to consolidate its power. This may be followed by greater tyranny, possibly another one-man rule.

As Mr. Dulles warns, the "real and final test" of Soviet leaders' intentions will be readiness to accept basic changes in the Soviet system, including opposition parties, an independent judiciary and a free press.

Such changes have not taken place. Until they do, the free world must maintain its vigilance despite the cooing from Moscow.

CPYRGHT